

Summary of CIArb Relaunch Event on 10-22-2019

The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) Seattle Chapter Relaunch, occurred on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at the Seattle, WA Offices of David, Wright, Tremaine. The title of the relaunch event was, "ADR For A Modern Economy". The featured speakers that evening were Ambassador (Ret.) David Huebner and RealNetworks Associate General Counsel, Govinda Jayasinghe. The event was hosted by Bryan Branon, one of the members pivotal to the revival of the Seattle Chapter. Prior to the commencement of the event, there was a networking event where attendees were able to speak with one another. The networking portion of the event was exceptionally constructive as it gave the many law students and young attorneys present a chance to "pick the brain" of the more senior and developed attorneys about how they got into practice, the paths to their current careers, and what they enjoy about their current jobs.

The formal event began with a touching statement from Robert Maguire, the Chair of the Litigation Practice for the Seattle Office of Davis Wright Tremaine. Mr. Maguire discussed the realities of arbitration, particularly the fact that we often arbitrate and mediate decisions and issues in our daily lives without acting as a litigator or advocate. After the remarks from Mr. Maguire, Mr. Jayasinghe gave statements about the realities of international arbitration; the impact of cultural differences between parties; the importance of a choice of law clause in an arbitration agreement; and other key details about international arbitration. After the remarks from Mr. Jayasinghe, Mr. Branon graced us with a brief recantation about his path to law practice as well as his efforts in generating and planning the relaunch of the Seattle Chapter of Chartered International Arbitrators.

Lastly, the other key speaker, Ambassador (Ret.) David Huebner spoke on the title of the event, ADR for a Modern Economy. Ambassador (Ret.) Huebner began with remarks of respect that he learned from the Maori people while he was an Ambassador in New Zealand. Ambassador (Ret.) Huebner spoke about the economic impacts on both the function and use of international arbitration. More importantly,

Ambassador (Ret.) Huebner detailed how to build a career in International Arbitration. Ambassador (Ret.) Huebner stated that as a professional you need to seek out opportunities for education and networking. Ambassador (Ret.) Huebner relayed that the more Chartered Institute of Arbitrators events one attends, the more networking with other professionals a person engages in, the further one's career in international arbitration will go.

The more pivotal aspects of the event were Ambassador (Ret.) Huebner's remarks about the importance of inclusion in the practice of international arbitration. Ambassador (Ret.) Huebner discussed that when he first entered the profession, international arbitration was dominated by straight, white men who were over the age of fifty. As time has passed, more and more of the practitioners of international arbitration have become people who do not fit into the category of straight, white men who over the age of fifty. However, what was most important was Ambassador (Ret.) Huebner's statements about how inclusion is actually fostered. Ambassador (Ret.) Huebner discussed how it was easy to attract diverse candidates, but retention was not occurring. Ambassador (Ret.) Huebner said, "You do not plant flowers that you think will attract the bees. You plant a garden that truly and actually fosters flowers that you know will attract the bees." Ambassador (Ret.) Huebner meant that it is not enough to give lip service to diversity and inclusion; one must create a professional environment that is truly inclusive, promotes diversity, and makes people feel truly welcome.

If more speakers, practitioners, and professionals involved with the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators share similar thoughts and beliefs of Ambassador (Ret.) Huebner, about inclusion, expansion of practice, and dynamic career building and engagement opportunities, it is exciting to be involved in the relaunch of the Seattle Chapter. This relaunch event will be the first of many excellent events hosted by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Seattle Chapter.